

KEY WEST DEFENCELESS

THE PRESENT ARMY ORGANIZATION
AND ITS RESULTS.

Key West, April 10.—The condition of affairs in the Gulf of Mexico is so serious that the United States Government has been forced to take the most drastic measures to protect its interests. The situation is so grave that the United States Government has been forced to take the most drastic measures to protect its interests. The situation is so grave that the United States Government has been forced to take the most drastic measures to protect its interests.

According to plans provided by the Board on Fortifications, Key West is to have mounted behind banks of sand and concrete no fewer than two 12-inch, one 6-inch, and one 8-inch anti-aircraft battery. The garrisons are divided into three groups, each of two 6-inch rapid-fire, two 10-pounders and two 6-pounders; two nests of twelve 4-inch mortars, each nest containing sixteen, and 100 submarine mines. Considering the position of the harbor and the lay of the reefs, it was felt that the most effective defense well served, would make the place absolutely safe from any attack. But one has only to glance at what now is to be found here and compare the present situation with what the completed plan contemplates, to see that even when all the guns were in place, the harbor would be stores now piled at the station, will be entirely at the mercy of any well-manned armed cruiser or enemy might send to take them—unless, indeed, the naval Commander-in-Chief took some of his able ships from its proper functions and sent them to sea to sweep the Gulf off the coast, demolishing such as heber, defeat.

In short, so far as the land fortifications are concerned, Key West is practically defenceless. On the west end of the island and a little to the south of the obsolete Fort Taylor there is now in course of construction a concrete wall of a form, height and thickness not proper to state. It is sufficient to say that this wall forms the inner line of a fortress behind which two 8-inch and four 10-inch rifles are to be mounted on disappearing carriages. The best form and character known to modern army engineers have apparently been given to this wall, but only enough of it has been completed to afford mounts to the two 8-inch and one 10-inch guns. The rest will be completed eventually, but prob-

Of course, to get three good rifles mounted is something. But the fact is that the wall behind which they are mounted is a defence now only against the rapid-fire guns of an enemy; it will be necessary to pile before and against that wall, as the plan contemplates, thousands of yards of sand before the guns and men will be adequately protected from an enemy's great gun fire. Indeed, were such a thing practical in this water-soaked coral reef, the guns and their crews would be much safer if sunk in a hole below the surface than they now are.

In addition to these rifles are the mounts for half of one nest of mortars—eight in all. The mortars are expected soon, and these, if here, might be made ready for service. The physical condition of the coast fortifications elsewhere, the department has, of course, the facts, and due consideration has been given them by Secretary Alger. That they are bad enough, even when we consider that Spain can bring only a few armored ships to attack us, will not be denied by any one. But good or bad as each may be, physically considered, there is one defect applicable to all, a defect that explains in good part the deplorable condition in which some of them are found, and a defect that will become more and more serious as the need for them grows, if it is not remedied. This defect is an utter lack of any organization in the army suited to the needs of the coast defence artillery.

artillery of the American Army. So far as opportunity has been afforded them—that is, so far as study and experience at such post graduate schools as those at Fort Monroe and Wilt's Point, with a constant reading of professional papers printed at home and abroad, can make

them so—they are already experts. And, what is of still more importance, they are to a man

eager for the practical experience to be had in manning such modern works as this one here at Key West is likely to be when it is completed.

All Inspired with It.

"When I hear my neighbors playing 'The Star-Spangled Banner' on the piano at 7 o'clock in the morning," said a citizen, "I can't have any doubt about the prevalence of patriotic feeling."

FACTS ABOUT ARMY LIFE.

THINGS THE VOLUNTEER LEARNED
SOON IN THE CIVIL WAR.

care to get you started right in the race or life; at youth, impressionable as it is in many ways, seems least susceptible to good advice, which indeed it appears to shed much as a duck sheds water. And so I mention these things gay, 'o you, Philip, with the hope that if my previous remarks met that fate these will find lodgment in your memory box."

SLIPPING THROUGH ON HALF FAIR.

Trains With Well-Grown Children.
"One of the best places for study and amuse-

Thomas A. Edison, Jr., is in charge of the corative effects. Prof. F. B. Crocker of Columbia is the consulting engineer, and Max terberg, E. E. A. M., is the construction giness.

EARLY CROP BEAR CUBS.

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THEY WEREN'T LOOKING FOR.**

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ing her behind. The cook helped him get
out from the back of his neck, and took

one of the men went back over the road to look
the bear and the other cubs. A wounded
r will always make for water, and will lie in

& Co., Ne

WROTE HIS STORY IN JAIL.

Party of late men from the morning news-

work
